

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now present in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 10-13, 15-17 and 20 have been amended, and claims 21-24 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-identified application on August 7, 2003. Notification of receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement and consideration of the documents cited therein by the Examiner are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims should particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 12 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by GORIO, U.S. Patent 5,100,359. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over GORIO. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-9, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over GORIO in view of NYSTAD et al., U.S. Patent 2,957,251. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over GORIO in view of NYSTAD et al. and MILLER, U.S. Patent 4,494,935. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to GORIO discloses a toy made of several interconnected and adaptable units. Basically, this toy has a soccer ball like appearance.

The present invention, on the other hand, is directed to an element of a globe block game. As expressly recited in amended claims 1 and 17, there are a plurality of interfaces defining longitudinal lines and latitudinal lines on the hollow globe-like body. This arrangement is used for a globe which has such longitudinal and latitudinal lines. The six-sided elements of GORIO, on the other hand, do not form such longitudinal and latitudinal lines.

The secondary references to NYSTAD and MILLER do not overcome these deficiencies. The NYSTAD reference merely teaches a globe with removable portions. However, it does not teach units or elements of a globe block game which are linked together along longitudinal and latitudinal lines to form the globe-like body. Even if some map were imprinted on the GORIO reference, as suggested by the Examiner, the design of the elements as claimed

with longitude lines and latitude lines would not be found. Similarly, the MILLER reference again discloses pieces which are affixed to the underlying surface 8. However, the pieces are not arranged with longitude and latitude lines.

Apart from independent claims 1 and 17, dependent claims 21 and 23, for example, recite that the smaller interface boundary is free of contact with an underlying support structure. The NYSTAD et al. and MILLER references disclose placing the pieces on underlying structure. For example, NYSTAD et al. uses both an upper shell section 18 and lower shell section 20. MILLER uses the globe structure 8.

In addition, dependent claims 22 and 24 recite that the elements only have four face boundaries which contact other face boundaries. The five-sided structure of GORIO is different from this design. This unique design enables a globe block game which is interesting and can be used for educational purposes. Children at different levels of development can use this technique for learning geography and improving their spatial imagination.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art utilized by the Examiner would neither suggest nor render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

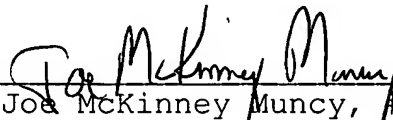
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$55.00 is attached herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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